













THE HICKMAN COURIER,  
—PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY—  
GEORGE WARREN  
HICKMAN, KY.  
Office—Helm Building, Clinton Street.  
The Old Newspaper in Western Kentucky.  
George Warren, Editor.  
Price of Subscription, \$2.  
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1881

The Kentucky State Democratic Committee is to meet in Frankfort on the 12th to determine as to calling a convention to nominate a candidate for State Treasurer.

The St. Louis and Texas narrow gauge railroad company agents have been busy the past week and will soon have the northern end of the line located. It is now probable that the line will pass through Charleston and near New Madrid.

It looks now as though there would be as many candidates for Clerk of the Court of Appeals as there are counties in the State. The election does not take place until next August one year (1882), and yet there are at least a dozen candidates already in the field.

It is said Secretary Windom contemplates the retirement of the \$1 and \$2 greenbacks. If so, Secretary Windom contemplates a foolish thing—a very unpopular thing. The people will not willingly give up the \$1 and \$2 greenbacks. They are the most convenient notes in circulation.

Telephones available for use over short lines are now so cheap and easily managed that they are coming into general use to connect residences with business offices. The cities and towns are covered with a maze of public and private wires extending in every direction and when these become disarranged by storms the confusion which ensues is often quite amusing.

AN INTERESTING DECISION.—In the United States Circuit Court at Memphis, Tenn., last week, Judge Barter rendered a decision affirming one previously delivered by Judge Hammond, of the United States District Court, to the effect that a merchant furnishing supplies to a steamboat at the home port has a claim which, in settlement, takes precedence of a mortgage given before the supplies were delivered.

THE MEXICANS are again becoming uneasy about the numerous railroad-nay in process of construction through their States. They fear that the end of all will be the "Gringos." While this feeling exists this sentiment against annexation is growing in the United States, many believing we have enough discordant elements already without adding the turbulent mixed races of the revolutionary Mexico.

THE ASSASSINATION of the czar struck terror to the heart of every person wearing a crown in Europe. All are guarded with the greatest vigilance. Even the Queen of England does not dare to take a railroad trip without sending an empty train ahead to catch the shock of any torpedoes or bombs that may be used against it. About the most unhappy people of Europe now are the Sovereigns. Bombs seem to be revolutionizing revolutions.

INDEBTEDNESS has again been argued in the Keely motor, so often denounced as a humbug. Last week Keely gave an exhibition of his motor to a large number of socialists and men whose position is evidence of the sincerity of their statements and unite in expressing their sentiments at the remarkable power of his machine. The principles upon which his machine is based is not revealed and until it is explained there will be great distrust in his schemes.

THE INVESTIGATION of the star service in the postal department is creating a sensation in Washington and elsewhere. The frauds have been well known to exist but the difficulty has been to establish the facts. Now there is a probability that the whole truth will come out as the President has made the right move to secure a thorough ventilation of the matter, and it only needs the cooperation of congress to expose the rascals who have been so long robbing the nation.

THE WITNESS in the famous Morcy letter, which played such a conspicuous part in the Presidential canvass, has been convicted and sentenced to eight years imprisonment. We can say, with a very few of the Democratic editors, that we neither gave this slander credence nor publication. We fought the battle upon the Cincinnati platform, though many abandoned it and sought to gain the victory by slinging mud. We rejoice at the conviction and can sincerely wish that all who assisted in its production were served likewise.

THE AIM of the New Year is plainly to strengthen himself with his own people before making any attempt to increase his dominion. The nihilists are determined to force him to make concessions and establish a constitutional monarchy. Perhaps Russia will be in a ferment of insurrection partially suppressed for many years to come, for beyond the occasional killing of an emperor or officer the nihilists seem to have no power. It will require years to educate the Russians so that they will understand how to establish and maintain the government they desire.

Some Kentucky statistics. From tabulated statements in the Courier-Journal we glean the following interesting facts in regard to the enormous population of Kentucky: Lunatics, in the three asylums, 1,628; Blind, in Asylum, 125; Deaf and Dumb, in Asylum, 130; Feeble-minded children, 280; Idiots, 280. The population of the State of Kentucky is 1,045,569, and the ratios of the afflicted classes are: Lunatics, 1 to every 1,075 persons; blind, 1 to every 22,807; deaf and dumb, 1 to every 12,971; feeble-minded, 1 to every 12,081; idiots, 1 to every 1,330.

The Tax on Bonded Whisky. Should the Kentucky Court of Appeals affirm the judgment of the Franklin County Court that whisky in warehouse is subject to State tax, it is estimated the State Treasury will be enriched to the extent of \$200,000. The tax (at the rate of forty-five and one-half cents on the \$100) will amount to a little more than one-half cent per gallon.

Strange to say the millions of gallons of whisky made every year in Kentucky have never been taxed for State and county purposes. Anything else in the line of personal property which a man can own is taxed. There is no exemption from taxation because the general law regarding taxation has never been enforced against whisky in the warehouse. Auditor Lewis finds no law exempting whisky from taxation for State and county purposes, and is now endeavoring to have the law enforced. It is not to be expected that the whisky manufacturers in other Kentucky counties are up in arms about it. A test case has been made with W. A. James & Co. of Franklin county as a defendant, who had 9,297 barrels, forty-two gallons each, on hand on January 1st, 1880, and argued before Judge Thompson at the Franklin county court. The decision rendered after elaborate argument on both sides, is that every gallon of it is liable to taxation.

A Great Speech. The speech of Hon. Wm. Lindsay of Frankfort, in the case of Z. Smith against the Western Union Telegraph Company, was a masterly effort and the best ever delivered in this courthouse in New Castle. The jury heard consequently the case will be taken again in the next court.

Expensive Notice. The costliest single dish of which we have any record was not luxurious supper of high-priced delicacies, or the French which Cheapside gave to Anthony, in which the first dissolved her pearls, but Oudet Whiteaker's car. One hundred thousand dollars for a single meal of some is too much.

The Obstructionists. A repudiating ruse in Nashville has employed a number of able lawyers for the purpose of defeating the funding bond regarding the State debt under the United States laws of the insolvency of the capital and the unconstitutionality of the act. It is evident that we are where trouble, if the courts shall open the smallest gap for the repudiating Democrats who, for years, have been trying to disgrace and disgrace the State and break up the Democratic party.

A Sunday Law Span. Louisville, April 29.—The State Attorney for this county has commenced a criminal case against the Louisville & Nashville railroad for violation of Sunday law. The petition specifies the running of certain trains, the employment of men, and said plaintiff further states that by reason of said acts, defendants by virtue of the State law, have caused a great deal of business to be done in violation of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to plaintiffs as aforesaid, in the sum of \$350 as follows to wit: One fine of \$50 to running said operating said train, and six other fines of \$50 each for employment of persons engaged to work and labor upon the same, whereupon plaintiff prays judgment against the defendants for the sum of \$350 and costs.

The Mississippi Valley. The continent in favor of united Mississippi Valley is extending eastward and it will not be long before the people of Illinois and Indiana or Ohio and Kentucky as well as the northern central States will see their best interests in encouraging and aiding the Mississippi Valley railroads, the best and cheapest water routes, and the construction of rail routes parallel with them to provide rapid transportation when necessary. They are beginning to see that the cheapest way of carrying the heavy freight, especially agricultural productions, is by water; that natural water routes are cheaper than artificial ones can possibly be made.—Doctor Enterprise.

Abolition's Son. All the Cabinet officers have plenty of people to call on business and pay respects. In the matter of the great number of visitors Secretary Lincoln, however, "makes the cake." In addition to the regular tide he has one hundred colored people who want to shake hands with him to one that visits the other members of the Cabinet for that purpose. The War Department is crowded every day with colored people. They all say the same thing: They simply want to shake hands with the son of the man who issued the emancipation proclamation. All classes, from the city swell to the "country-bred" from "Old Virginia," make a Mecca of the War Department. He receives them all and greets them not only with a hand grip, but with a few cheerful words of greeting. Some times, in the case of an old fashioned colored man or woman, he will talk for some little time with them.—Ex.

A man is now imprisoned in the New York jail for obeying the injunction of the Bible to let his eye be yes and his nay, nay. He was chosen on a jury and being a very devout man refused to swear or affirm because the Bible does not sanction such proceedings and is imprisoned for contempt of court.

GREAT WATER HIGHWAY.  
The Mississippi as a Protection Against Railroad Monopolies.

[Philadelphia American.] The development of the Mississippi river, as the greatest highway by which the products of the Mississippi Valley will find their way to foreign countries, is at present exciting a great deal of attention both East and West, and there are several additional trunk lines of railways between the East and West now under way, at least two of which it is promised will be completed during the current year. It is a grave question for railroad managers to consider as to whether the future traffic by the trunk lines will not be largely reduced by the diversion of that traffic by the way of the Mississippi river. For the past two years, the trunk lines have done an enormous business, and notwithstanding the early opening of the Northern water route, the quantity of grain yet to come forward is undoubtedly sufficient to give them a good business for some time to come. Nevertheless, an apparent realization on the part of some of the railroad managers of the fact that the future control of this business is, to say the least, problematical, has done more towards unsettling the practically harmonious arrangements that have existed for the past two years between the trunk lines than anything that has occurred since the appointment of Commissioner Plunk as the autocrat of railroad transportation.

Buying up The Bars. A novel experiment in the way of temperance reform is about to be tried at the little town of Berwick, on the North Branch of the Susquehanna, Columbia county, Pa. There are large shops at this place for building cars, and the proprietors are often employed by the failure of many of their employees to report for duty at times they are greatly needed. Some good mechanics cannot refrain from going on a debauch after they get their month's pay. As a matter of course, the employer loses the benefit of their skill and labor until they have recovered. The President of the Jackson & Wadsworth Manufacturing Company, at Berwick, has determined to furnish the opportunity for this kind of indulgence by paying the three licensed hotels in the town for closing up their bars. The estimated profits of these three establishments from the sale of liquor aggregate \$6,000 a year, and this sum the President of the manufacturing company has offered to pay. He expects to get his money back in the increased efficiency of his own workmen.

Short-Sighted Policy. In a publication now in press, Mr. John R. Proctor, Director of the Geological Survey and Bureau of Immigration in Kentucky, calls public attention to the short-sighted policy pursued by some Kentucky railroad managers. Some of the railroads in Kentucky are now pursuing the short-sighted policy of having emigration agents, whose duty it is to disseminate the publications of the Northern and Western land agents, and offer cheap fare and other inducements to citizens of the State to move West. It is that many persons are thereby induced to emigrate from the State, and that few of them have returned and their condition by so doing, and that most of them have been deceived by unscrupulous statements. I deem it my duty to publish a warning to the people of this State and the South, and ask of such as contemplate removing to the West a careful study of the facts.

Star Route Swindle. Since the exposure of the whisky ring nothing has attracted the public eye so long as the swindle which has so long prevailed in the various departments. Great credit is given and great credit is due to the Postmaster General James for the manner in which he is conducting this investigation, and for the high life he has of the responsibilities of his position. He has acknowledged his obligation to obey the laws and to observe the limitation which it imposes, is not just what his predecessor would not do. On the 15th and 16th of March, 1880, Senator Beck, having been elected, fraudulently exposed the swindle which has so long prevailed in the various departments. This speech of Senator Beck is worthy of attention on many accounts. It goes to the root of the matter, and it is a fact that a Presidential election was approaching and Brady was a good "worker" this speech would have brought about his downfall.

Cholera's Precursor. The increase of typhus fever in this city derives its chief significance from the fact that this disease portends a possible epidemic of Asiatic cholera. That the sequence of typhus fever and cholera—as plagues that find congenial lodgment in the same locality—is a idle theory, may be shown by reference to the highest practical and professional authority. Dr. Max Von Pettenkofer, of Munich, counselor and professor of hygiene in the University of Munich, and one of the most able living investigators of cholera epidemics, testifies: "Experience has frequently shown that cholera has a special preference for such parts or localities as are visited epidemically by enteric fever." To this deliberate judgment of Dr. Pettenkofer, published in 1873, the eminent writer adds: "The more filthy and the more impregnated a stratum of soil is the more active an agent it is for cholera and typhus." The reason suggested for the identity between the famous "black death" (the historic name of typhus) and the fell Asiatic plague is that both diseases depend to a certain extent upon the determination of the dampness of the soil, which is obviously increased when the stratum of earth which excludes the sunlight and prevents the sun's rays from penetrating the soil.

The Globe-Democrat furnishes consolation to the farmers whose lands are now overgrown: "Yet the fertile lands of the bottoms are the product of the river, and these great inundations are a source of fertility which is inexhaustible. If no destruction accompanied them, their value as fertilizers would be incalculable. The river would be viewed not as an enemy, but as a friend, and its rising would be a cause not of anxiety, but of gratification."

SHORT-HORNS IN FULTON.  
The Experience of one of Our Best Farmers.

[Fulton, Ky., May 3, 1881.] Mr. J. J. Miller, of Fulton, Mo., a Short-Horn breeder, writes, ten months old, by 1877, and two thoroughbred yearling heifers for \$200 each. On the day following this sale I paid Mr. L. Alexander, \$250 cash for a red bull calf six months old, by 1877. I send you these calves that you may realize the people of our country to the question which, in our opinion, could be made of all others the most profitable. Think of this thing: a thoroughbred bull calf will always, at six or eight months old, bring from \$200 to \$300. I have sold all I have been able to breed at these prices and have been unable to supply a constantly increasing demand for this breed of cattle. The demand is so great for heifers, but still they go off readily at remunerative prices. I send you these calves that you may realize the people of our country to the question which, in our opinion, could be made of all others the most profitable. 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